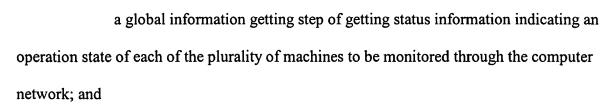a database management step of updating a machine database storing monitor information of the plurality of machines based on the status information; and

a display step of displaying on a display, in installation area units of the plurality of machines, the information stored on the machine database.

68. (Amended)   A computer-readable medium storing a program for causing a computer connected to a plurality of machines to be monitored through a computer network to execute:

a global information getting step of getting status information indicating an operation state of each of the plurality of machines to be monitored through the computer network; and

a display step of displaying, in installation area units of the plurality of machines, the gotten status information.

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to an Office Action mailed on October 31, 2001, a response to which is due no later than January 31, 20021. Accordingly, this Amendment is being timely filed.

Claims 1-69 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, applicant has amended claims 24, 52, 65 and 68.

Applicant first notes that the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-23, 27-51, 55-64, 67 and 69 are allowed. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 25, 53 and 66 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s).

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 24, 26, 52, 54, 65 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177 to Gase et al. Applicant respectfully traverses that rejection.

Gase et al. discloses a network having a plurality of client processors 10, 12, 14 connectable to each of a plurality of printers 18, 20, 22 via a file server 16. See, e.g., FIG. 1. The network of Gase et al. ensures that the plurality of client processors 10, 12, 14 each have an up-to-date print driver 26 for each of the plurality of printers 18, 20, 22. The network of Gase et al. also provides status information for a user-selected printer on a display screen presentation 50 on each client processor 10, 12, 14. See, e.g., column 4, lines 38-59 and FIG. 2. While Gase et al. discloses providing status information for each of a plurality of printers, it does not teach or suggest "displaying, in installation area units of the plurality of machines, the status information gotten by said global information getting means", as recited by amended claims 24, 52, 65 and 68. While Gase et al. discloses providing status information to a user-selected printer, applicant's invention recites displaying status information in installation area units of the plurality of machines. Thus, applicant's claims recite an invention distinct from and distinguishable over the disclosure of Gase et al. Applicant respectfully submits that Gase et al. is not a proper 35 U.S.C. §102(b) reference because it fails to teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. See, e.g., MPEP §702. Thus, applicant further respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 24, 26, 52, 54, 65 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Gase et al., is no longer tenable, and respectfully requests withdrawal of those rejections.

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Moreover, applicant respectfully submits that his invention is not obvious in view of Gase et al., whether considered alone or in any hypothetical combination with any prior art or with the knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicant has considered the prior art of record, and respectfully submits that none of the references of record in the present application, considered alone or in any hypothetical combination (between and among each other or with the knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the art), teach or suggest applicant's invention, as recited by the claims of the present application. Consequently, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-69 are allowable over the prior art of record (the Examiner already indicating the allowability of claims 1-23, 27-51, 55-64, 67 and 69), and respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks provided herein.

Pages 7-8 of this Amendment, titled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE APPLICATION, indicate the changes made to the claims in accordance with this Amendment.

Early and favorable consideration of the present application in view of the amendments to the claims and remarks provided herein is respectfully requested. If the Examiner is not in a position to allow all claims as presently amended, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at 212-806-5400.

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Any additional fees or charges required at this time and in connection with the present application may be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE APPLICATION

24. (Amended)   An integrated monitor unit for receiving status information indicating an operation state of each of ~~the~~ a̲ plurality of machines to be monitored through a computer network, said integrated monitor unit comprising:

global information getting means for getting the status information from the plurality of machines; and

display means for displaying, in installation area units of the plurality of machines, the status information gotten by said global information getting means ~~in installation area units of the plurality of machines~~.

52. (Amended)   A method for monitoring a machine comprising:

a data getting step of getting status information indicating an operation state of each of a plurality of machines to be monitored, the plurality of machines being connected to a computer network and the information being gotten through the computer network;

a step of providing a display; and

a display step of displaying on said display, in installation area units of the machines, the status information of the plurality of machines ~~in installation area units of the machines on said display~~.

65. (2X Amended)   A computer-readable medium storing a program for causing a computer connected to a plurality of machines to be monitored through a computer network to execute:

a global information getting step of getting status information indicating an operation state of each of the plurality of machines to be monitored through the computer network;

a database management step of updating a machine database storing monitor information of the plurality of machines based on the status information; and

a display step of displaying ~~the information stored on the machine database~~ on a display, in installation area units of the plurality of machines, the information stored on the machine database.

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68. (Amended)   A computer-readable medium storing a program for causing a computer connected to a plurality of machines to be monitored through a computer network to execute:

a global information getting step of getting status information indicating an operation state of each of the plurality of machines to be monitored through the computer network; and

a display step of displaying ~~the gotten status information,~~ in installation area units of the plurality of machines<u>, the gotten status information</u>.